

Navy New London Public Affairs Office

# Media RELEASE

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For Immediate Release - #00-18

July 10, 2000

## **NUMI TO CHANGE CHARGE**

GROTON, Conn. – CDR Bruce A. Cohen, MC, USN will be relieved by CDR Victoria A. Cassano, MC, USN, in a Change of Charge ceremony at North Lake Pavilion at the Naval Submarine Base, Thursday, July 13 at 9 a.m.

RADM (Ret.) Morris D. Kerstein, MD, FACS, will be the ceremony's guest speaker.

During his tour, Cohen's significant accomplishments included a \$2.2 million building renovation, and development of the Navy's Residency in Undersea Medicine. He was also the leading expert in submarine escape suit development in cooperation with the Royal Navy.

Cohen's next duty station will be the Medical Officer at Commander, Submarine Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA.

Cassano, born in New York City, received her BA degree in Chemistry and Biology from Manhattanville College in 1974. Subsequent to receiving her Masters of Philosophy degree in Human Genetics from Columbia University, she was accepted at the Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences as a medical student. She began her naval career upon receiving her commission as an Ensign, Medical Corps, USNR in August 1980.

Upon completion of medical school, she was augmented and recommissioned as a LT, Medical Corps, and USN. After completing a surgical internship at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia, she attended the Naval Undersea Medical Institute in Groton, as an undersea medical officer candidate. Successfully completing diving, submarine and radiation medicine programs, she received orders to Submarine Group Six in Charleston, S.C. Subsequent tours include Director of Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine at Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy where she also acted as the Submarine Group Eight Medical Officer. In 1991 she served as Director, Operational Health Services, Naval Hospital, Groton followed by duty at the Navy Environmental Health Center. In 1997 she accepted her current orders as Force Medical Officer, Military Sealift Command, Atlantic.

***Editor's note: Media partners desiring to cover this event should contact the Navy New London Public Affairs Office no later than 3 p.m. July 12.***